Gamers!

by SEKINA Aoi & TAKAHASHI [illegible]

Chapter 2

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=￣ω￣=
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ゲーマーズ！

GAMERS

to be rejected by a lonely gamer!!?

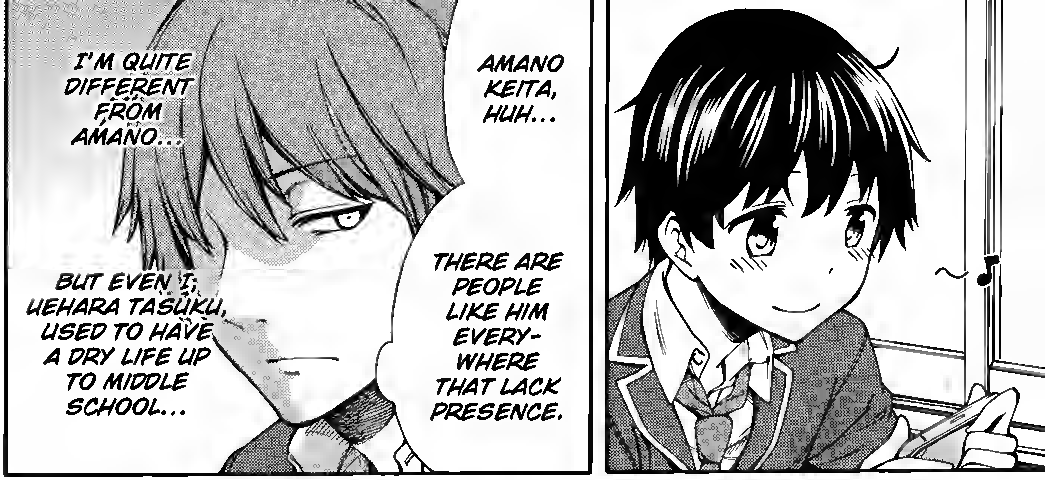
There's no way for the school's idol

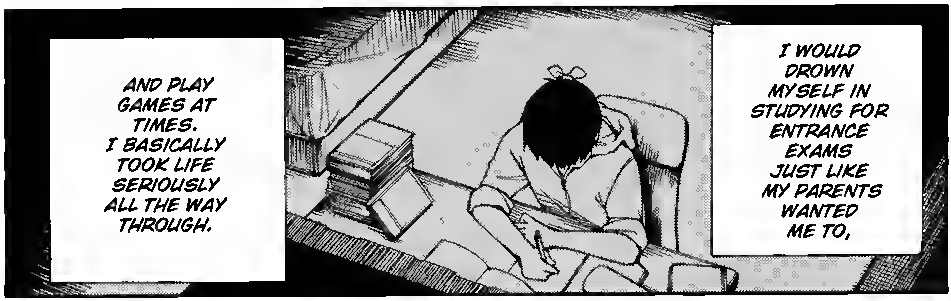
Level 02 Going for New Game + with Uehara Tasuku

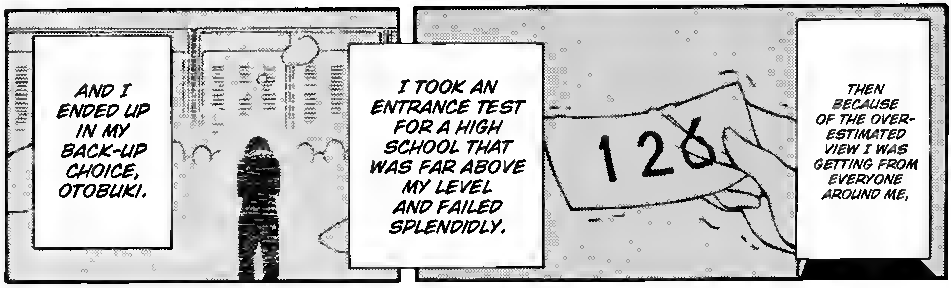
The carefree afterschool time of a certain handsome guy
ガヤガヤ
……
WOAH... THAT'S AMAZING ...

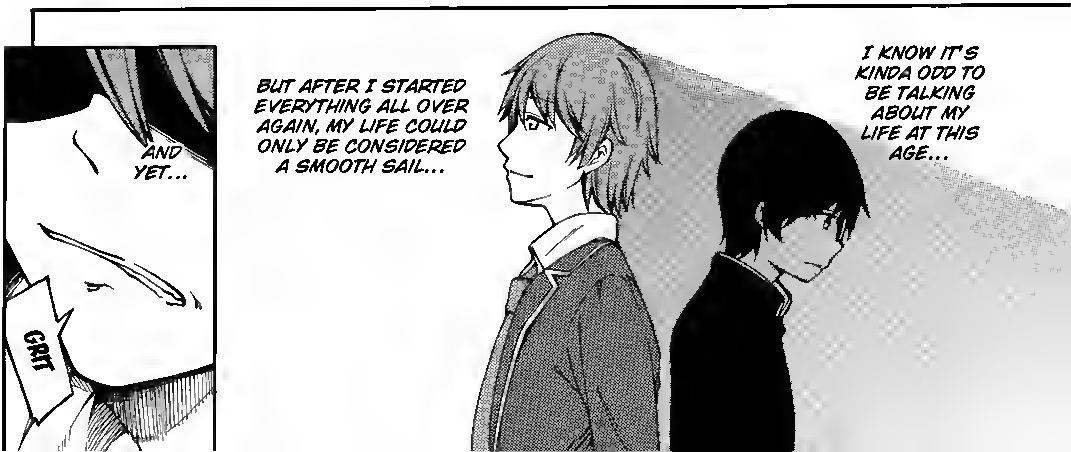
HM?
IF I
RECALL,
HE'S...

Yawn...
Morning
Heya
Wah!
You're late, Tasuku.
Can it.
Actually, wasn't that employee just so annoying!
It's just unbeliev-able!
We're the customers here!

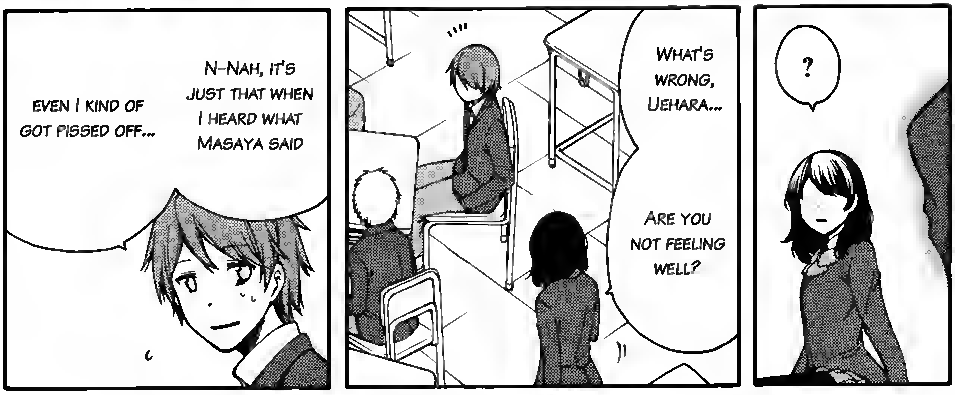

I'M QUITE DIFFERENT FROM AMANO...
BUT EVEN I, UEHARA TASUKU, USED TO HAVE A DRY LIFE UP TO MIDDLE SCHOOL...
AMANO KEITA, HUH...
THERE ARE PEOPLE LIKE HIM EVERY-WHERE THAT LACK PRESENCE.


AND PLAY GAMES AT TIMES. I BASICALLY TOOK LIFE SERIOUSLY ALL THE WAY THROUGH.
I WOULD DROWN MYSELF IN STUDYING FOR ENTRANCE EXAMS JUST LIKE MY PARENTS WANTED ME TO,


AND I ENDED UP IN MY BACK-UP CHOICE, OTOBUKI.
I TOOK AN ENTRANCE TEST FOR A HIGH SCHOOL THAT WAS FAR ABOVE MY LEVEL AND FAILED SPLENDIDLY.
126
THEN BECAUSE OF THE OVER-ESTIMATED VIEW I WAS GETTING FROM EVERYONE AROUND ME,


AND YET...
GRIT
BUT AFTER I STARTED EVERYTHING ALL OVER AGAIN, MY LIFE COULD ONLY BE CONSIDERED A SMOOTH SAIL...
I KNOW IT'S KINDA ODD TO BE TALKING ABOUT MY LIFE AT THIS AGE...

THAN ME, WHEN I AM CHATTING AROUND WITH MY FRIENDS...!!
SEEM TO BE HAVING MUCH MORE FUN,
AND YET, WHY...
ARE YOU, WHO IS SUPPOSED TO BE AMONG THE LOSERS...


EVEN I KIND OF GOT PISSED OFF...
N-NAH, IT'S JUST THAT WHEN I HEARD WHAT MASAYA SAID
WHAT'S WRONG, UEHARA...
ARE YOU NOT FEELING WELL?
?

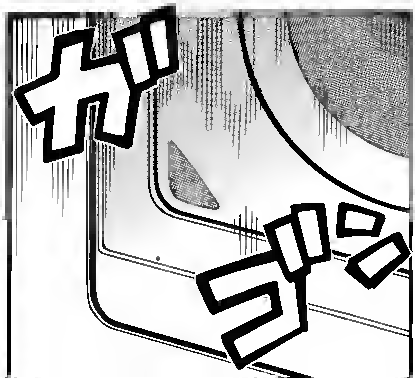
OR SO I USED TO THINK...
UNTIL I SAW THAT SCENE...
LET'S JUST FORGET ABOUT HIM...
WHAT THE HECK AM I DOING...
ガッ
OOH, TASUKU! YOU REALLY ARE A NICE GUY!
SOMEONE LIKE AMANO KEITA IS COMPLETELY IRRELEVANT...
O' COURSE I AM-

AMANO HAS...
REJECTED
ガラッ
TENDOU KAREN ...!!?

FOR SOME-ONE LIKE AMANO ...!
JUST WHY...
DID TENDOU ...
WHY
!
HOW CAN YOU MAKE SUCH A FACE...?
HONESTLY, WHAT ARE YOU THINKING OF...?
EVEN AFTER REFUSING TENDOU'S INVITATION...

GAME CENTER
SLOT
生活空間

WOAH...
THAT'S AMAZING...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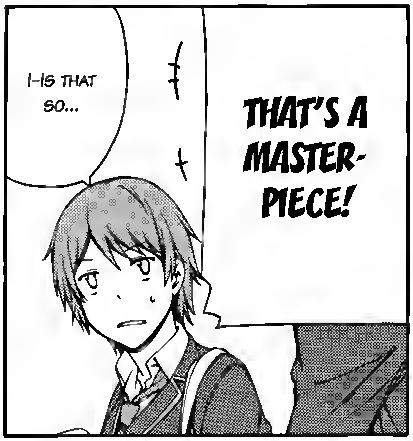
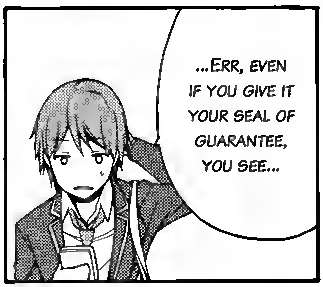
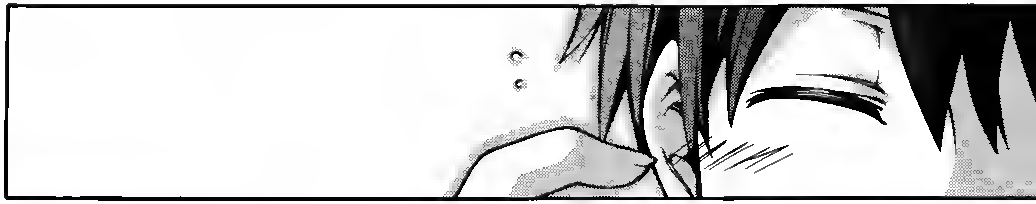
ペコッ
I'M AMANO!
WE'RE IN THE SAME CLASS!
I KNOW THAT.

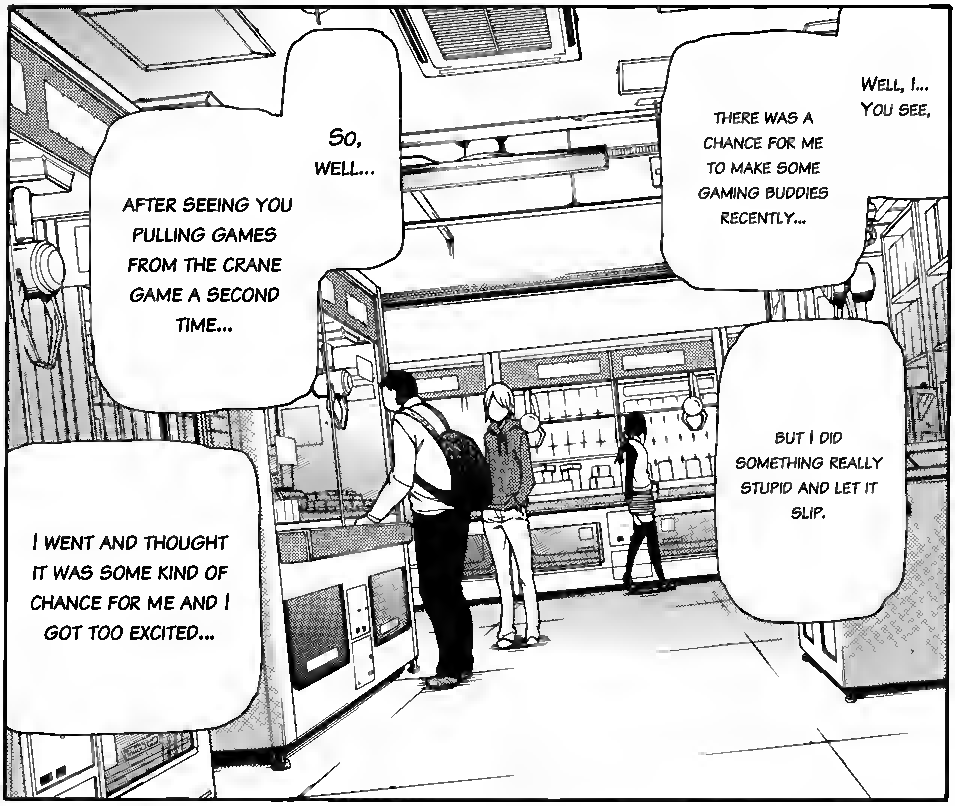
It's just a coinci-dence...
No, that's not really...
Huh?
Th-This! You're amazing, Uehara-kun!
You were grabbing some plushies earlier too!
There was a game I wanted to try play...
I told you it was just a coincidence.
Eh? Ah, no...
W-Why did you pick this...?
Hey, Uehara-kun. Are you into games?
What the heck? He's disgusting! So that's the mental disposition of a genuine otaku...
Uwoah !?
Which?
Which one!?
Eh!?

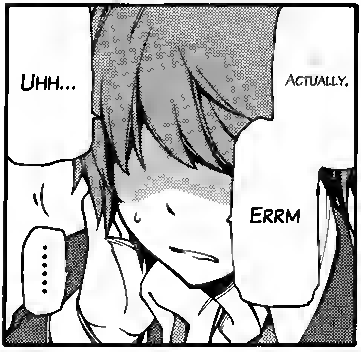




FOR A GAME THAT WAS SAID TO "REVOLUTIONIZE THE CONCEPT OF GAMING" WHEN THE SERIES WAS AT ITS FULL BLOOM, IT WAS ACTUALLY QUITE AN ORTHODOX ENTRY IN THE FANTASIA SERIES, SO IT GOT SOME HARSH REVIEWS AT FIRST.

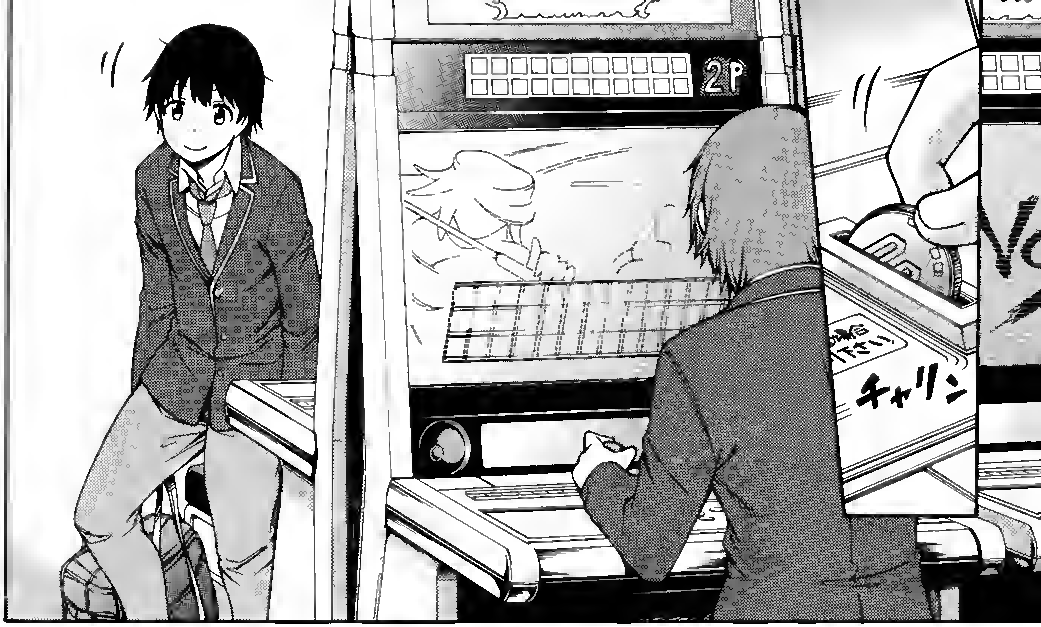



So, well....
After seeing you pulling games from the crane game a second time...
I went and thought it was some kind of chance for me and I got too excited...
Well, I... You see,
There was a chance for me to make some gaming buddies recently...
But I did something really stupid and let it slip.

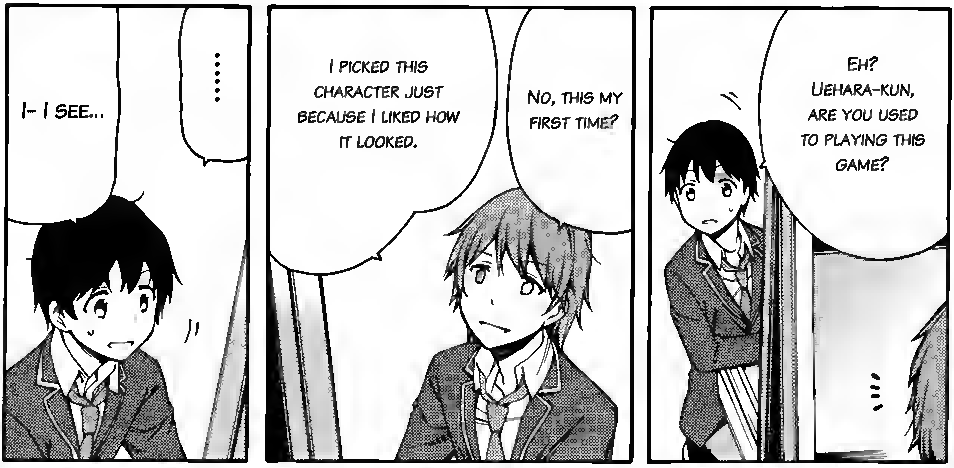

Uhh...
Actually,
Errm

No... you don't really need to be apologizing...
Sorry...

EH?
AH.
YEAH.
THANKS FOR MAKING ALL THAT EFFORT...
AH, WELL THEN, I'LL BE LEAVING NOW...
AH- WAIT, WAIT, WAIT.
UHH, WHAT WAS IT AGAIN?
AMANO...
WANNA HANG OUT WITH ME FOR A BIT?

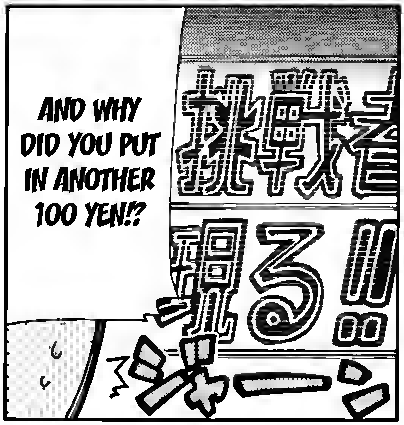

2P

ビッキーン
WELL THEN, I'LL GO WITH THIS... OKAY.
AMANO WENT FOR THE CLICHE AND PICKED THE MC, HUH...


I- I SEE...
I PICKED THIS CHARACTER JUST BECAUSE I LIKED HOW IT LOOKED.
NO, THIS MY FIRST TIME?
EH? UEHARA-KUN, ARE YOU USED TO PLAYING THIS GAME?

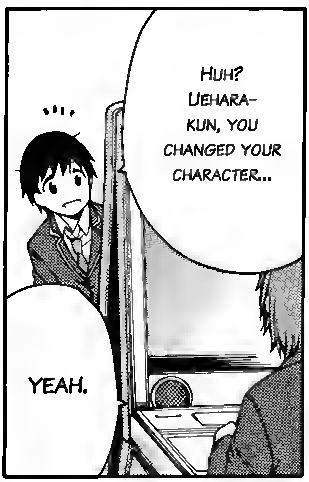
YOU'RE JUST SO BAD!!
K.O
WAH!?
U-UEHARA-KUN, YOU'RE SO GOOD!

YOU CAN CHANGE YOUR CHARACTER WHEN SOME-ONE JOINS, HUH...
GEEZ ...
OH.
OKAY...


AND WHY DID YOU PUT IN ANOTHER 100 YEN!?
ジャーン

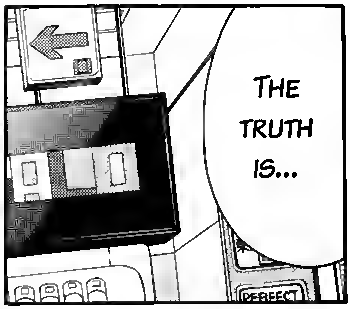
?

AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, IT LOOKS LIKE YOU GOT USED TO CONTROLLING IT...
IS THIS REALLY OKAY?
BUT, IT SEEMED TO ME THAT YOU LIKED THE PREVIOUS ONE...


...
HUH? UEHARA-KUN, YOU CHANGED YOUR CHARACTER...
YEAH.

I MEAN, USING VARIOUS CHARACTERS WOULD BE MORE FUN, NO?
EVEN YOU CHANGED YOURS.
1P
AMANO...?

エース
EH?
AH.
---SO
WHAT WILL WE BE PLAYING NEXT?
YES! YOU'RE RIGHT!
YOU'RE TOTALLY RIGHT, UEHARA-KUN!!
W-WITH THAT BATTLE JUST NOW, THE SCORE BECOMES 1 FOR 1!
LEAVING THINGS LIKE THAT WOULD BE ANNOYING, RIGHT!?
.....
TURN DOWN TENDOU'S INVITA-TION...
HONESTLY...
WHY WOULD SOMEONE WHO CAN GIVE ME THAT KIND OF LOOK...

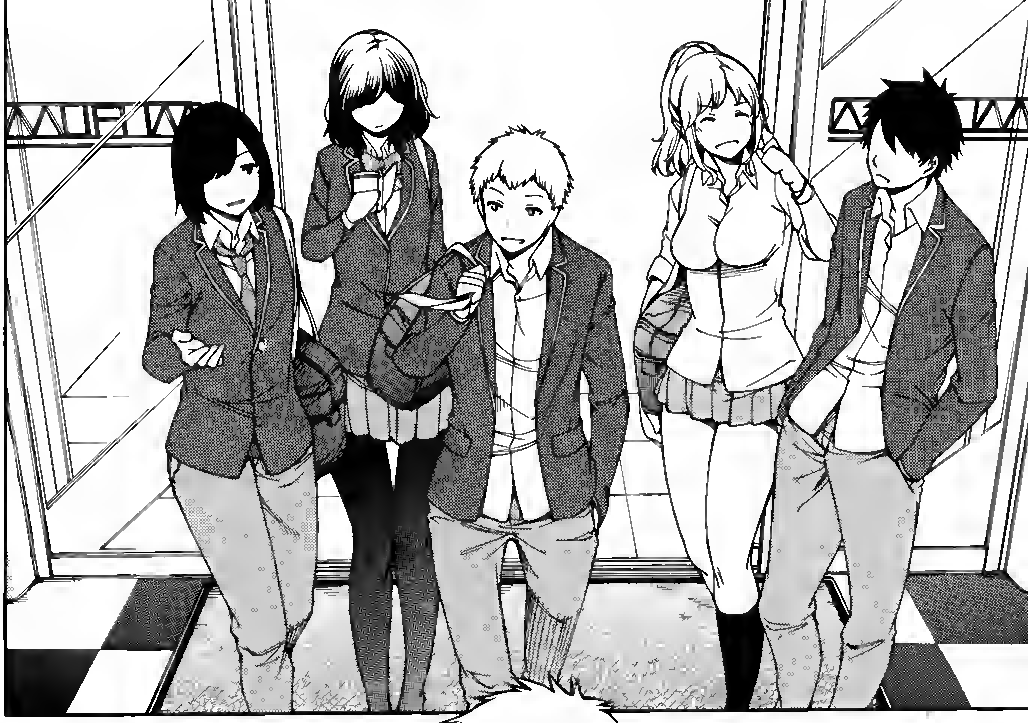


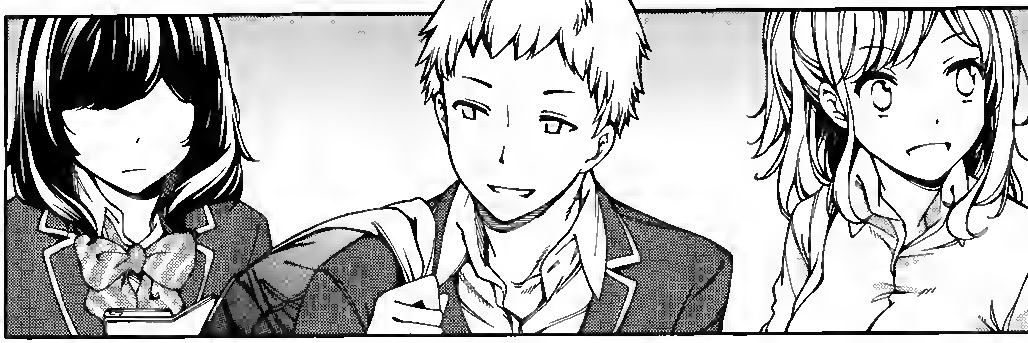
THAT'S ALL THERE WAS TO IT...

IT WAS NOTHING THAT IMPRESSIVE.

HE WAS INVITED BY TENDOU TO HER CLUB WHEN THEY MET BY CHANCE...

!
AH!
UEHARA-KUN!!
O-OI, AMANO!
LOOK...
...

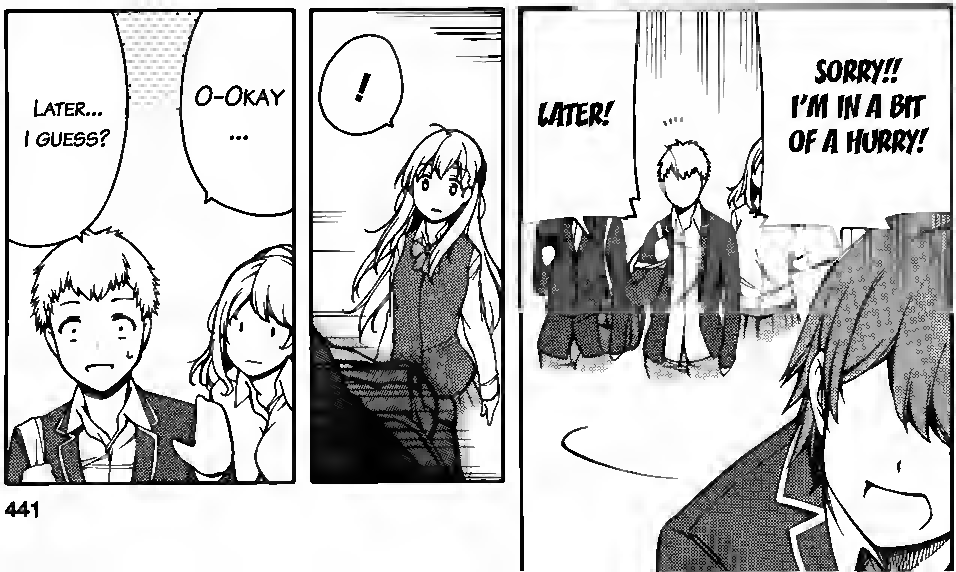


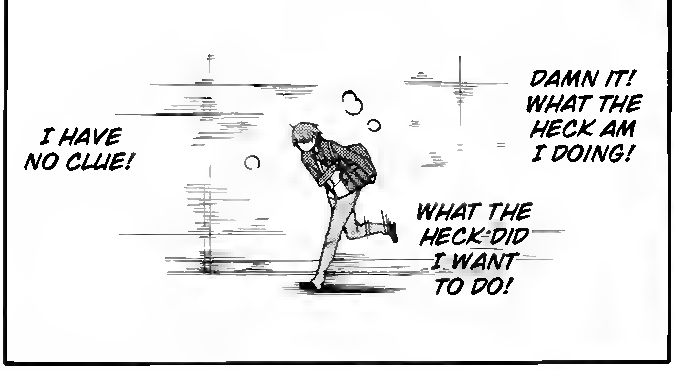


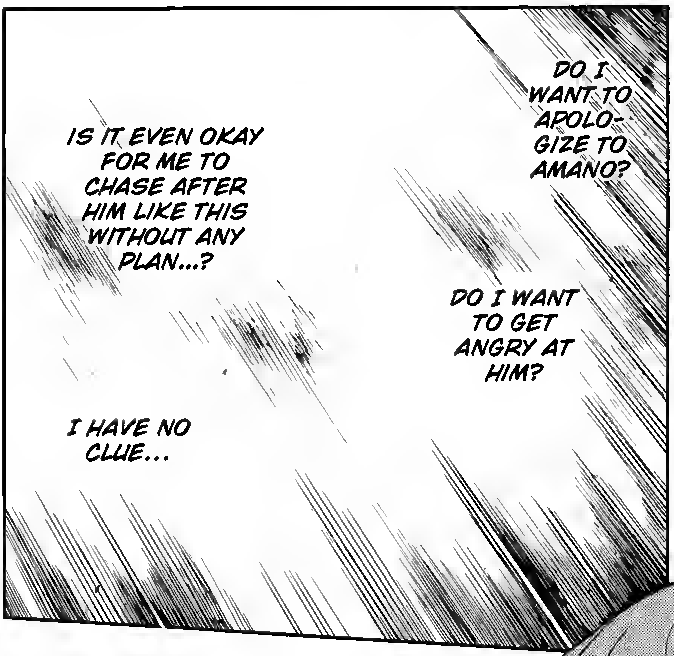
I-I'LL BE LEAVING NOW!
THANKS FOR EVERYTHING TODAY!
!
OI...!
たっ
.....
AH...

OH? IF IT ISN'T TASUKU! TALK ABOUT A COINCIDENCE!
WE WERE ON OUR WAY BACK FROM KARAOKE!
YOU KNOW, THAT ONE WE...

DAMN THAT AMANO...
WHY DOES HE GO PLAYING DUMB ALL OF A SUDDEN...
EH?


SORRY!! I'M IN A BIT OF A HURRY!
LATER!
!
O-OKAY...
LATER... I GUESS?


I HAVE NO CLUE!
DAMN IT! WHAT THE HECK AM I DOING!
WHAT THE HECK DID I WANT TO DO!


DO I WANT TO APOLO-GIZE TO AMANO?
IS IT EVEN OKAY FOR ME TO CHASE AFTER HIM LIKE THIS WITHOUT ANY PLAN...?
DO I WANT TO GET ANGRY AT HIM?
I HAVE NO CLUE...

BUT ...!

EH...?
AMANO!!
UEHARA... KUN?
WHY... WHAT'S THE MATTER?

!
WHY DID YOU RUN...?
EH...? "RUN?"
YOU'RE EXAGGERATING IT...
YOU DID RUN.
.....
... WELL ...
IF SOMEONE LIKE ME WAS WITH YOU...
YOU SEE...
IT'D BE A PROBLEM FOR YOU, RIGHT...?

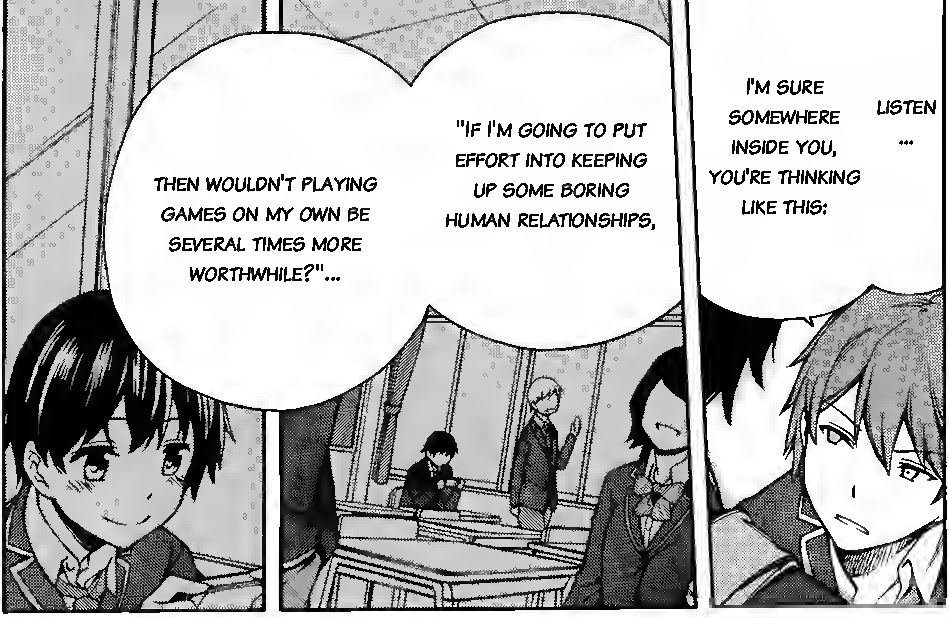
エースA
YOU'RE A REAL-LIFER AND ALL...
I FINALLY UNDER-STAND...
THIS GUY...
THIS CLASS-MATE OF MINE...
QUIT SCREWING AROUND!!
!
たっ

DON'T YOU DARE ...
"REAL-LIFER" MY ASS!
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE!!
I HATE HIM SO MUCH IT MAKES ME WANT TO PUKE!!
SUM PEOPLE UP WITH SUCH A WORD!!
YOU HEAR ME!?

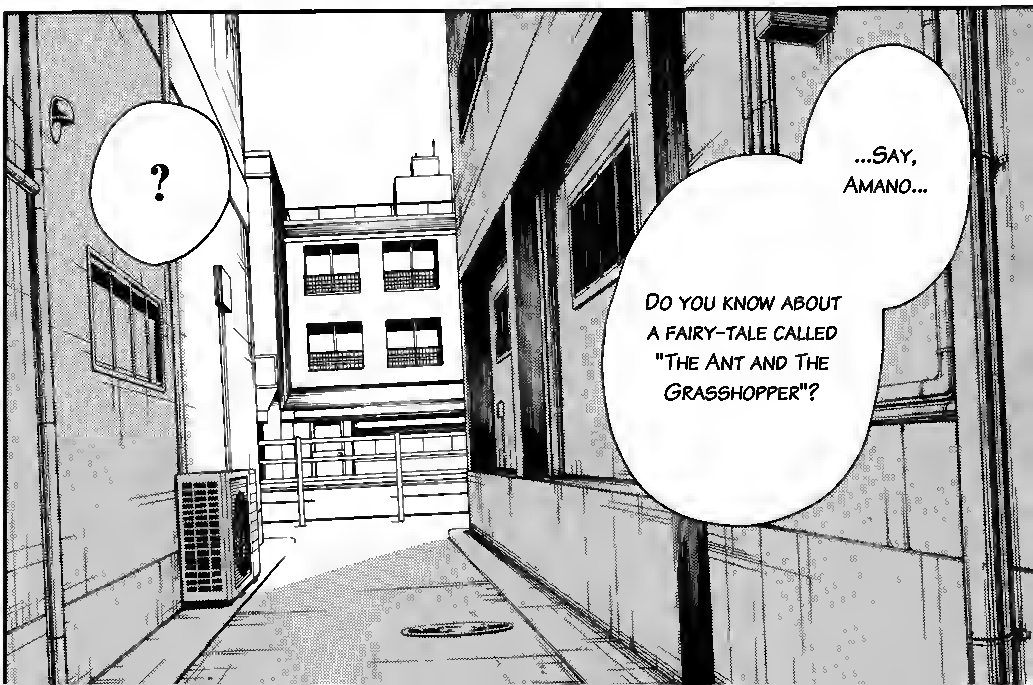
WHAT DO...
YOU...

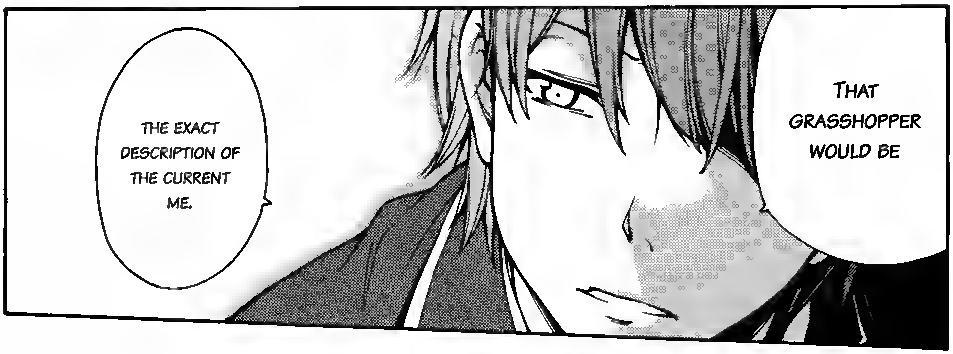
I, WHO WAS A FOUR-EYED STUDY-WORM,
HAVE DESPERATELY WORKED TO CHANGE MYSELF IN HIGH SCHOOL...!!
IF YOU REGARD MY CURRENT REAL-LIFE AS SOMETHING FULFILLING,
THEN THAT WOULD SOLELY BE THE FRUIT OF MY EFFORT!

I'M NOT LOOKING DOWN ON-...
LIKE HELL I'D LET YOU SAY YOU AREN'T!!
AT THE VERY LEAST, I HAVE NO REASON TO BE LOOKED DOWN ON AND SUMMED-UP AS A "REAL-LIFER" BY YOU!!
YOUR REAL-LIFE NOT BEING FULFILLING IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY, AND ONLY YOURS!!

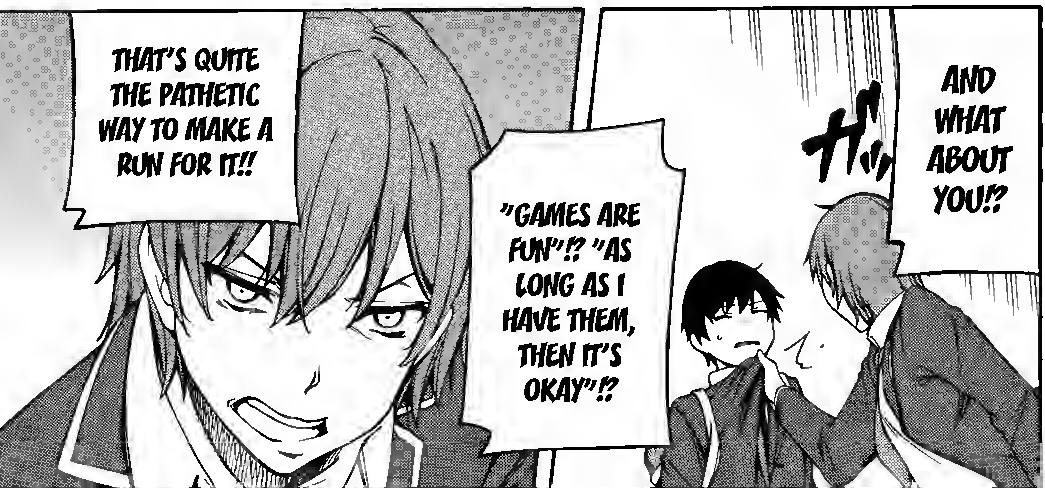

LISTEN ...
I'M SURE SOMEWHERE INSIDE YOU, YOU'RE THINKING LIKE THIS:
"IF I'M GOING TO PUT EFFORT INTO KEEPING UP SOME BORING HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS,
THEN WOULDN'T PLAYING GAMES ON MY OWN BE SEVERAL TIMES MORE WORTHWHILE?"...

TH-...
THAT'S ...

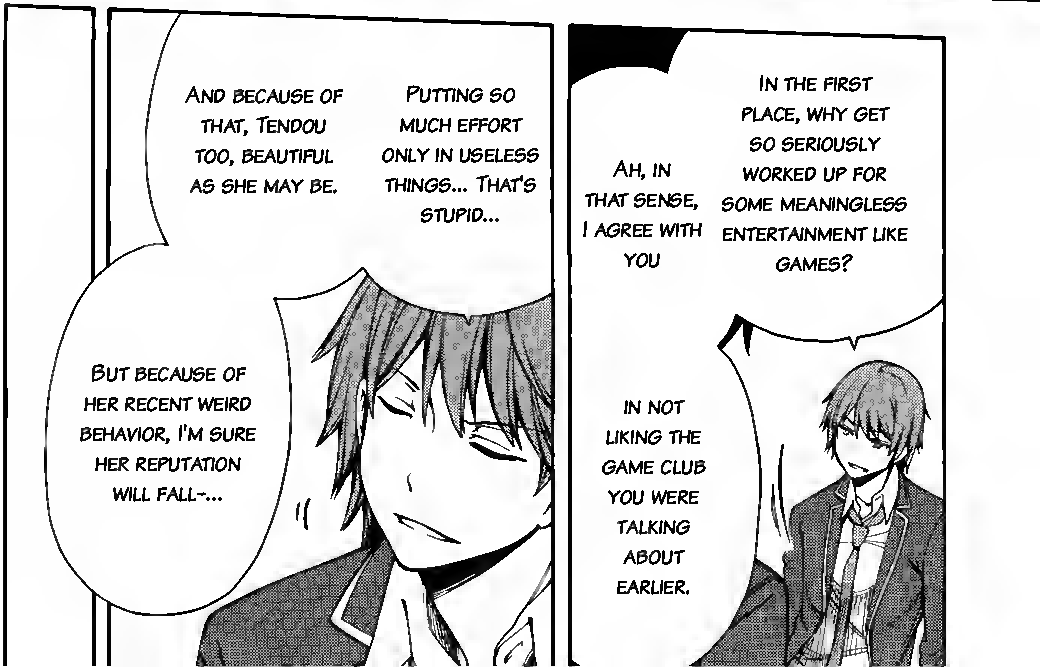

...SAY, AMANO...
DO YOU KNOW ABOUT A FAIRY-TALE CALLED "THE ANT AND THE GRASSHOPPER"?
?


THE EXACT DESCRIPTION OF THE CURRENT ME.
THAT GRASSHOPPER WOULD BE

JUST BY DOING THAT, I GET TO MAKE IT THROUGH WITH NOTHING BUT GOOD RESULTS IN THE END.
AND IF A TIME COMES WHEN I'M DRIVEN INTO A CORNER, I SIMPLY BOW MY HEAD AND RELY ON SOMEONE ELSE.
FLEXIBLY AND FLAWLESSLY DOING THINGS ONLY WHEN I NEED TO,
AND REJOICING MY YOUTH WITH ALL MY MIGHT.
ISN'T THAT THE BEST?


THAT'S QUITE THE PATHETIC WAY TO MAKE A RUN FOR IT!!
"GAMES ARE FUN"!? "AS LONG AS I HAVE THEM, THEN IT'S OKAY"!?
AND WHAT ABOUT YOU!?

...!
I WAS NEVER ABLE TO STOMACH IT...!!
THAT PART ABOUT YOU...


IN THE FIRST PLACE, WHY GET SO SERIOUSLY WORKED UP FOR SOME MEANINGLESS ENTERTAINMENT LIKE GAMES?
AH, IN THAT SENSE, I AGREE WITH YOU
IN NOT LIKING THE GAME CLUB YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT EARLIER.
PUTTING SO MUCH EFFORT ONLY IN USELESS THINGS... THAT'S STUPID...
AND BECAUSE OF THAT, TENDOU TOO, BEAUTIFUL AS SHE MAY BE.
BUT BECAUSE OF HER RECENT WEIRD BEHAVIOR, I'M SURE HER REPUTATION WILL FALL-...

!?
カ!!
!!
SO, WHAT MADE YOU SNAP?
...OH.
SO YOU CAN PUT ON SUCH A FACE TOO?
OR IS THAT...
DID YOU SNAP BECAUSE OF ME POINTING THAT YOU WERE SOME TRASH WHO COULD ONLY ENVY REAL-LIFERS WAS A BULL'S-EYE?

DON'T MAKE FUN OF THE ANTS!!

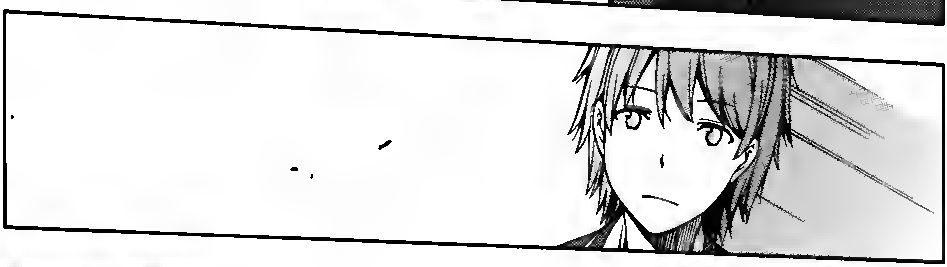
I'M REALLY SORRY!!
EH?
AH, OKAY...
I KNEW THAT MYSELF FROM THE VERY BEGINNING! ALSO, SORRY FOR CALLING YOU A REAL-LIFER!
EVEN I THOUGHT IT WAS ODD OF ME TO SAY THAT!
IT'S TRUE THAT I'M A SLACKER WITH NO HOBBIES OTHER THAN GAMING, AND THAT I DON'T MAKE ANY EFFORT!!
BUT...
I'LL ADMIT IT
YEAH... GAMES ARE BASICALLY A WASTE OF TIME...
I'LL EVEN GO AS FAR AS TO RELUCTANTLY ADMIT... THAT YOU WERE RIGHT WHEN YOU SAID THAT GAMES ARE MEANINGLESS...

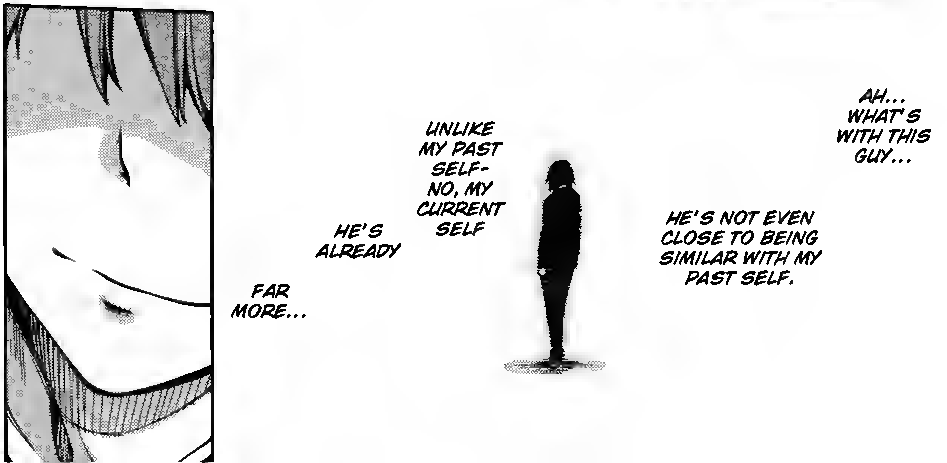
GOING WITH THE MOMENTUM OF ALL OF THIS...
AND MAKING FUN OF THE GAME CLUB OR TENDOU-SAN...
...!
IS SOME-THING I'LL NEVER FOR-GIVE!!

As you said, Uehara-kun. The grasshopper is indeed smart!
His flexibility impresses me.
Honestly, even I want to be like him.
But...
But, you see!
No matter how smart he may be!
He has no right to make fun
of the ants who work so hard!!
!
That's
...

She went and invited someone like me twice.
And especially ...
Tendou-san. She's really such a nice person...
Of course she's cute and all...
And moreover, she's talented at games.
But she's also gentle,
She makes effort,
She came all the way to Otobuki to join the game club!
That's why I'll accept every single word of criticism you throw at me,
And I'll apologize to you over and over. However...
She's someone I can truly offer my respect to.

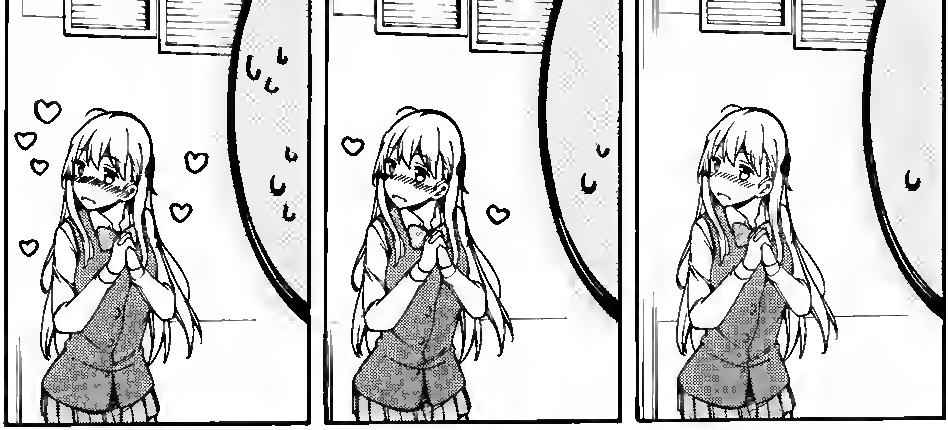
I'LL HAVE YOU TAKE IT BACK.
EVERYTHING YOU SAID
TO RIDICULE TENDOU-SAN OR THE GAME CLUB




AH... WHAT'S WITH THIS GUY...
UNLIKE MY PAST SELF- NO, MY CURRENT SELF
HE'S ALREADY FAR MORE...
HE'S NOT EVEN CLOSE TO BEING SIMILAR WITH MY PAST SELF.

SORRY...
I'LL APOLOGIZE ABOUT EVERYTHING REGARDING TENDOU AND THE GAME CLUB.
...ACTUALLY, ERR...
ALSO REGARDING ANYTHING BAD I SAID ABOUT YOU...
SORRY FOR GETTING WEIRDLY FLARED UP FOR NOTHING...
AS YOU CAN SEE!
UEHARA-KUN!? N-NO... THAT'S NOT TRUE!
IF IT'S ABOUT ME, THEN I'M THE ONE IN THE WRONG HERE...!
BUT MAN, FOR THE VERY PERSON WHO SO BLATANTLY REJECTED TENDOU'S DIRECT INVITE, TO LECTURE ME ABOUT THE GAME CLUB. YOU SEE, IT'S KINDA...
AH. Y-YOU'RE RIGHT!
UM, THEN...
ERRR...
WELL ...!
pfft

---Well then,
I'll be going home for today.
Nah... The difficulty level of that is too high for me.
How about starting all over, and hanging out with everyone while we're at it...?
I'll be going back to the game center. What about you?
I see... Then, uhh...
See you later at school!
Ah...
Y-Yeah,
See you there!



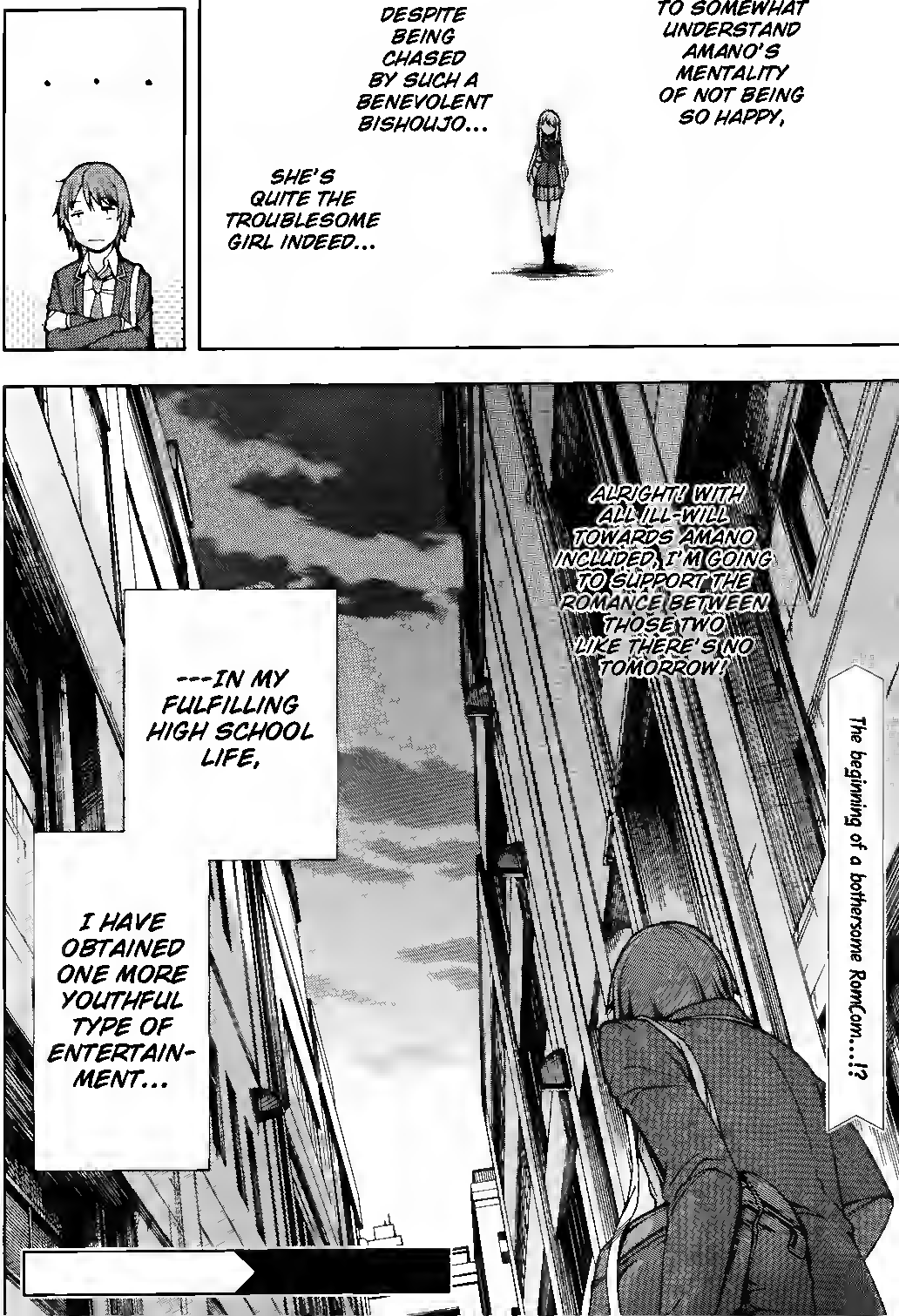
...OH BOY... I CAME UPON ONE HELL OF A SCENE...
AFTER ALL...
NO MATTER WHO...
AND HOW THEY LOOKED AT THAT, ANYONE COULD TELL!!

OUR SCHOOL'S IDOL HAS
COMPLETELY FALLEN IN LOVE...
AMANO-KUN, WHO WENT THAT FAR WITH STUBBORNLY REJECTING HER INVITATION, CARED SO MUCH FOR HER AND HER GAME CLUB.
AFTER SEEING THAT, OF COURSE SHE'D END UP LIKE THAT, HUH...

HAHII !!?
OII... TENDOU!
HUH?
I-I-I-I-IT'S NOT LIKE I WAS THINKING OF ANY-THING ABOUT SOMEONE LIKE AMANO-KUN, OKAY!!!?
A TSUNDERE MAIDEN IN LOVE HAS APPEARED ...!!

...THIS IS STUPID.
AH, OKAY. I UNDERSTAND.
WELL THEN, I WISH YOU HAPPINESS.
H-H--HO-
HOLD ON A MINUTE !!
Guegh!
Y-Y-YOU!!
WHAT DID YOU "UNDERSTAND"!?
WH-W-WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY WISHING ME HAPPINESS...!!
cough
AH, YEAH...
I WAS THINKING THAT YOU AND AMANO...
ACTUALLY SUIT EACH OTHER, YOU KNOW?

WHA.....!
LATER.


...
...I'VE STARTED TO SOMEWHAT UNDERSTAND AMANO'S MENTALITY OF NOT BEING SO HAPPY,
DESPITE BEING CHASED BY SUCH A BENEVOLENT BISHOUJO...
SHE'S QUITE THE TROUBLESOME GIRL INDEED...
ALRIGHT! WITH ALL ILL-WILL TOWARDS AMANO INCLUDED, I'M GOING TO SUPPORT THE ROMANCE BETWEEN THOSE TWO LIKE THERE'S NO TOMORROW!
---IN MY FULFILLING HIGH SCHOOL LIFE,
I HAVE OBTAINED ONE MORE YOUTHFUL TYPE OF ENTERTAIN-MENT...
The beginning of a bothersome RomCom...!?